

# Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



Dear Year 11

The news that we all received yesterday from the Prime Minister, that this year's GCSE examinations are not going to take place was partly anticipated, yet still a real shock.

As a year group, you have really responded positively to the learning challenges given to you by your subject teachers. They have commented on the improved quality of your work as it has developed and the manner in which you engage and work with them. There is no doubt that you have been a special group of pupils to work with. Well done!

The examinations have been cancelled as a result of the anticipated epicentre of the virus peaking right in the middle of the examination period. Consideration has been given to running examinations in maths and English only. However, this would have created the situation where some pupils would sit all their exams; some would sit some examinations and some of you may have been too sick to sit any.

As such, trying to regulate fairness across such diverse groups would be impossible for the awarding bodies and examination regulator. It is probably now a fairer way to treat all young people the same, by having no examinations.

This will now mean that as teachers and leaders we will have to demonstrate how amazing you are by using various forms of assessment, practice papers and other insights to make a moderated assessment for each of you.

I would still urge and encourage you to maintain your studies and work, as even though the exams have been cancelled things could change and/or you may have to demonstrate your knowledge with tests when you join your new post-16 provider or employment route.

Do remember that learning lasts forever and that all your work, your skills and knowledge are yours to keep. Exams are a day and a grade. It is the learning that is important.

Tomorrow, during period 5, we are arranging for refreshments and for you to meet and sign your shirts (do bring a spare) as this is your right of passage. We will also, at a later date, arrange for an event where you can all meet wearing your prom costumes and be together as a year group with your teachers. Again, this is important and part of the working approach of the school with you at the centre.

These are, indeed, unique times and you have continued to impress us with your support, endeavours and positive attitude over the last few days.

The following passage from Maya Angelou, who was a poet and civil rights activist in the United States, strikes well:

‘You may not control all  
the events that happen to you,  
but you can decide not to be  
reduced by them.’

Again, thank you and well done!

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

T Griffiths  
Headteacher